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tory of Fall River. Certainly the importance of the city and its rôle in the industrial development of New England warrant a more careful study than this hurried compilation which was prepared and published in less than two months. It is to be hoped that the larger work will trace fully the development of the cotton industry in all its phases. To exact this of the present sketch, perhaps, would be unfair; as an attractive souvenir of an interesting occasion it is to be commended, both for the civic spirit which inspired it and for the mechanical excellence of its execution.

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American Commercial Legislation before 1789. By ALBERT ANTHONY GIESECKE. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1910. Pp. 167. \$1.50.)

The subject of commercial legislation in the thirteen colonies is one which exhibits somewhat unique obstacles to integral treatment. To avoid a successive rehearsal of the acts of each colony several plans suggest themselves. The legislation of the colonies might be regarded as a complement to the mercantilist navigation and trade laws of the Empire, or treated as the roots of our national tariff policy, with selection and emphasis of features appropriate in each case; or all the different regulations actually made might simply be classified and catalogued. Dr. Giesecke has employed the method last named; and it is perhaps the only one suited to so complete a treatment as he has undertaken. In describing each class of acts he has used general statements as far as identities or similarities could be found in the policy of any two or more colonies; but the fundamental difficulty of having to recount in order the doings of particular colony after colony could not be escaped, and makes the book somewhat hard reading.

The author begins by reviewing briefly, and on the whole very well, the English mercantilist commercial policy and the character and machinery of control exercised over the colonies in the interest of that policy. It seems unfortunate, however, that "the belief that wealth consisted in money,—gold and silver" should be unqualifiedly stated as one of the two fundamentals of mercantilism. Import and export duties; bounties, inspection laws, and

embargoes; tonnage duties; and port regulations, are the subjects of succeeding chapters. Nearly all of these elicited recurrent legislation by each of the colonies, but any consistent policy even in the individual colony is hard to trace. Revenue appears to have been the paramount consideration in most cases, but the encouragement of home merchants, shipping and industry, appear constantly as minor and often as major objects. The interference, often ineffectual, of England with whatever appeared to counter the functioning of the colonies in her economic policy had continually to be reckoned with.

A scanty chapter on the Revolutionary and Confederation periods and a general summary finish the book. Dr. Giesecke's review of the mass of colonial acts seems very complete and painstaking. Copious specific citations and a good bibliography aid in making the volume a handbook of facts quite indispensable to students of our commercial and particularly of our tariff history.

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Mémoires et Documents pour Servir à l'Histoire du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France. Publiés sous la direction de JULIEN HAYEM. (Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1911. Pp. xii, 252. 7.50 fr.)

Published under a title almost identical with that of the two volumes of Fagniez, this book provides a welcome continuation of his well-known collection, beginning in the sixteenth century, where he leaves off, and continuing even into the nineteenth. The two works differ, however, not only in the periods covered, but also in the spirit and method. Fagniez published his documents as an aid to the study and teaching of history, and, for the most part, let his texts speak for themselves. The editors who have collaborated in the present volume have their eyes as much on the problems of the present as on the facts of the past; they have chosen broad topics bearing on the origins of the modern industrial organization, and have selected and rearranged the material of the archives so that they offer, in most cases, historical essays rather than the bare documents.

Guitard writes on the woolen industry in Languedoc, with some very interesting illustrations of provincial regulations which were